

## Out of Bondage onto Promise

### Exodus 27:1-21

- Last week we talked about the Tabernacle and its frame and elaborate coverings, this week we were going to talk about the altar contained inside the Tabernacle. Just for context when a worshipper came to the Tabernacle to offer a sacrifice the first thing they encountered was a white linen fence, **150** feet long, **75** feet wide that surrounded the Tabernacle and created a courtyard area where the Priests ministered. The Tabernacle stood at the west end of the courtyard and at the east end was a **30** foot entrance where the Priest met the people and inspected their sacrifices.
- Here the Priest would examine the animal to see if it was acceptable and if so the worshipper would put their hand on its head to identify with the offering, and then the Priest would kill the animal and offer it on the brazen altar according to the regulations given in Leviticus chapters 1-7. There was only one entrance into the enclosure and only one way to get to the altar of God, when God puts up a fence and assigns the way in nobody has the authority to change it, Jesus in the **NT** says He's the door and only way in, from which man come through to God **Jn 10:9,14:6**.

### V1-21

- **V1-2** the Hebrew word for "**Altar**" literally means killing place, it was where both death and sacrifice resides, where atonement for sin was made and consecration unto God was marked. The altar was a box like structure made of Acacia wood and overlaid of bronze. Also there were to be horns on the altar so that the altar would appear to reach out in all directions, and blood was applied to each horn. Under the **NT** we also have an altar "**a killing place**" the cross, where Jesus reached out in all directions dying for our sins having His blood applied for every situation.
- **V3-8** the accessories for the altar were all made out of "**bronze**" and bronze in scripture is often identified with "**judgment**" **Num 21, Deut 28, Rev 1**. Unlike the "**golden altar of incense**" in the holy place the brazen altar was a place of bloodshed and death, and as gory as that sounds remember **Heb 9:22** says "**without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins**". Folks this is how bad our sins are, that it takes a place of death and bloodshed to cover them.
- Something interesting about the altar is it was made to be portable for them to carry it everywhere they went because their sins would follow them no matter where they go. Also in **Num 4:12-14** the children of Israel would place two coverings over the altar one was purple, the other made of badger skins. Purple symbolizes royalty, while Badger skins symbolizes comeliness
- Think about this when people hear of the sacrifice of Jesus they either see the Purple of the King of Kings coming down from His throne to save us from our sin and impending death, or the Badger skins and the ugliness of the cross, from which they begin to shrink away not wanting to identify with it. What's amazing is they were told to put the Purple on first then cover it with the Badger skins, meaning the Purple was underneath the ugliness of what people initially saw.

- This again is symbolic to how Jesus came upon the earth covered in comeliness having nothing outwardly special to draw people to Himself, but underneath it all was royalty, the King of Kings and Lord of Lord's, God Himself, walking amongst us, and the people didn't even know it. We shouldn't be drawn to Jesus because of what we see presently, we should be drawn to Him for Who He is eternally, and what He does for us internally, as he changes us from the inside out.
- **V9-16** here is a description of the courtyard and notice there was a long linen rope and gate that separated it from the people. In it was all the colors that reflect Jesus earthly ministry **V16 > 1<sup>ST</sup> Blue**- Heaven- speaking of His Deity, The book of John, **2<sup>nd</sup> Purple**- Royalty- speaking of Him as King of Kings, The book of Mathew, **3<sup>rd</sup> Scarlet**- Sacrifice- speaking of Jesus as the suffering servant, The book of Mark, **4<sup>th</sup> Fine Linen** or white- speaks of righteousness, The Book of Luke.
- **V17-21** the pegs and pillars were made of bronze and silver representing judgment and redemption and the oil used for the lamps was to be of pure olives and it was to burn continually. Oil is represented of the Holy Spirit, the was to always be on, meaning the incense was constantly burning, this reflects prayer should be always going lamps up to God, and the Holy Spirit is constantly present for God's people to access at anytime, folks it's the same for us today. We should be praying regularly, knowing we can access God at anytime > **1Thess 5:16-18**.
- Finally I want to share that if you line up each piece of the Tabernacle inside and out, from the Ark of the Covenant and the altar of incense on the inside to the Bronze Laver and altar of burnt offerings on the outside it forms a straight line across, then couple that with the formation of the shewbread and the lamp stand outside the veil, it all forms into a cross. This again proves how everything that is happening in the Old Testament the Law of God and His Tabernacle, is pointing us toward the New Testament and the Gospel of Grace through Jesus Christ > **Gal 3:23-25**.